Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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E.O. 11652 N/A TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJ: CIVAIR - PILOTS STRIKE TO SHUT DOWN ALITALIA

REF: ROME 1386

- 1. THE ITALIAN NATIONAL PILOT'S ASSOCIATION (ANPAC) HAS ANNOUNCED A SEVEN DAY STRIKE, EFFECTIVE FROM MIDNIGHT AUGUST 7, AGAINST ALITALIA AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES (DOMESTIC CARRIER ATI AND CHARTER OPERATOR SAM) TO PROTEST AGAINST THE PILOTS INCLUSION IN A SINGLE CONTRACT FOR THE ENTIRE CIVIL AVIATION INDUSTRY. ANPAC, WHICH HAS 1200 MEMBERS (ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF THE COMMERCIAL PILOTS IN ITALY), INSISTS ON A SEPARATE CONTRACT FOR FLIGHT PERSONNEL. THE WALKOUT WAS OCCASIONED BY ALITALIA'S STATEMENT TO MINISTER OF LABOR TOROS THAT THE AIRLINE IS PREPARED TO BARGAIN WITH THE UNIONS ON THE BASIS OF A SINGLE CONTRACT. ALITALIA PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN WORKING WITHOUT A CONTRACT SINCE DECEMBER 31, 1974 (REFTEL).
- 2. PILOTS' WALKOUT, WHICH WAS UNEXPECTED, FOLLOWED DECISION BY GROUND SERVICES UNIONS TO CALL OFF, BECAUSE OF "SATISFACTORY PROGRASS" TOWARDS SINGLE CONTRACT FOR ENTIRE CIVAIR INDUSTRY, THEIR NATIONWIDE 48 HOUR STRIKE SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 7 AND 8. GROUND SERVICES UNIONS, HOWEVER, HAVE CALLED FOR SERIES OF "HICCUP STRIKES" AND OTHER LABOR AGITATION STARTING AUGUST 15 IN SUPPORT OF SINGLE CONTRACT. UNCLASSIFIED

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3. COMMENT. ANPAC ACTION WILL SHUT DOWN ALITALIA, ATI AND SAM OPERATIONS FOR A WEEK AT HEIGHT OF TOURIST SEASON, THUS DAMAGING ALREADY HARD-PRESSED ITALIAN TOURIST INDUSTRY. US SCHEDULED CARRIERS WILL, OF COURSE, HAVE SHORT-TERM BENEFITS AS PASSENGERS/CARGO ARE REBOOKED. IN LONG RUN, HOWEVER, LARGER LOSSES OCCASIONED BY STRIKES WILL MAKE ALITALIA --CAUGHT BETWEEN GROUND SERVICES UNIONS AND ANPAC-- EVEN MORE ANXIOUS TO INCREASE ITS SHARE OF US-ITALY MARKET IN ORDER IMPROVE ITS FINANCIAL POSITION. VOLPE

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